* Deforestation is the process whereby natural forests are cleared through logging and/or burning, either to use the timber or to replace the area for alternative uses.
* 12-15 million hectares of forest are lost each year. The world’s rain forests could completely vanish in a hundred years at the current rate of deforestation
* **Reduced biodiversity:** Deforestation and forest degradation can cause biodiversity to decline. When forest cover is removed, wildlife is deprived of habitat and becomes more vulnerable to hunting. Considering that about 80% of the world's documented species can be found in tropical rainforests, deforestation puts at risk a majority of the Earth’s biodiversity.
* **Release of greenhouse gas emissions:** Deforestation causes 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Of these, carbon dioxide emissions represent up to one-third of total carbon dioxide emissions released because of human causes.
* **Disrupted water cycles:**Trees are important to the water cycle. They absorb rain fall and produce water vapor that is released into the atmosphere. Trees also lessen the pollution in water, according to the North Carolina State University, by stopping polluted runoff. In the Amazon, more than half the water in the ecosystem is held within the plants, according to the National Geographic Society.
* **Increased soil erosion:** Deforestation accelerates rates of soil erosion, by increasing runoff and reducing the protection of the soil from tree litter.
* **Disrupted livelihoods:** Millions of people rely directly on forests, through small-scale agriculture, hunting and gathering, and by harvesting forest products such as rubber. Deforestation continues to pose severe social problems, sometimes leading to violent conflict.
* **Reduced Animal Habitats**: With the loss of forests, animals stand to lose the territory and habitat, which they rely on to live. The lack of a natural habitat will either drive the animals into cities or into extinction
* **Lowered Standard of Living**: Damage to forests and other aspects of nature could halve living standards for the world's poor and reduce global GDP by about 7% by 2050, a report concluded at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting in Bonn.Historically, utilization of forest products, including timber and fuel wood, has played a key role in human societies, comparable to the roles of water and cultivable land. Today, developed countries continue to utilize timber for building houses, and wood pulp for paper. In developing countries almost three billion people rely on wood for heating and cooking.
* **Disrupted Local Economy**: Similar to the last point, when the local economy relies on the forest which borders it to function properly, it significantly damages the amount of wealth which lies in such an area
* In the Mediterranean, summers have become hotter, with less and less humidity and more winds. These create ideal conditions for forest fires. There are also more intensive rains and storms during winter which leads to increased vegetation – which in summer dries out and becomes fuel for fires. Observations suggest that tropical montane cloud forests are also highly at risk due to fewer, higher clouds and warmer temperatures, with serious impacts already underway.
* Removing trees deprives the forest of portions of its canopy, which blocks the sun’s rays during the day and holds in heat at night. This disruption leads to more extreme temperatures swings that can be harmful to plants and animals.
* Deforestation refers to the loss or destruction of naturally occurring forests, primarily due to human activities such as logging, cutting trees for fuel, slash-and-burn agriculture, clearing land for livestock grazing, mining operations, oil extraction, dam building, and urban sprawl or other types of development and population expansion.
* Companies can make an impact by introducing zero-deforestation policies that require suppliers to produce commodities such as timber, beef, soy, palm oil and paper fiber in a way that has a minimal impact on natural forests and the climate.
* Reforestation is the natural or intentional restocking of existing forests and woodlands that have been depleted
* Politics play a large part in modern environmental matters, especially in centralized democratic countries such as Canada, the US and the UK. If the government enacted legislation that made it difficult for the process of deforestation to occur, this could possibly lead to a reversal of the current fortunes of the forests.

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